

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6942

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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UNCLAS CARACAS 2623

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SUBJ: ANNUAL CONVENTION OF FEDERATION OF AEROCLUBS

1. THE XXIII ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE VENEZUELAN FEDERATION OF AEROCLUBS, MARCH 11-13, 1977, AT MARACAY, BROUGHT TO LIGHT SEVERAL ITEMS WHICH, WHILE POSSIBLY NOT VERY IMPORTANT BY THEMSELVES, ARE OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSEE AGENCIES. THE ANNUAL EVENT IS OF CERTAIN DOMESTIC IMPORTANCE, DUE TO THE PRESENCE IN THE PANEL OF HIGHLEVEL GOV OFFICIALS AND IT ALSO PRESENTS THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMEN OCCURRING ANNUALLY.

2. THIS YEAR'S EVENT WAS INAUGURATED BY THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS REPRESENTING THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA AND WAS ATTENDED BY ALL DIVISION DIRECTORS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS, THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE AND BY HIS CHIEF OF STAFF. DELEGATIONS FROM THE CURACAO, PUERTO RICO AND SANTO DOMINGO AEROCLUBS WERE PRESENT.

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3. THE CURACAO DELEGATION REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED MEMBERSHIP IN THE VENEZUELAN FEDERATION. EXPRESSIONS OF CLOSE TIES AND HOPES FOR COOPERATION, COORDINATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WERE MADE. HOPES WERE EXPRESSED TO FORM A LATIN AMERICAN CHAPTER OF THE IAOPA (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AIRCRAFT OPERATORS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATIONS), WHOSE SIXTH WORLD CONFERENCE IS TO TAKE PLACE IN CARACAS IN NOVEMBER 1978.

4. THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS IN HIS SPEECH STATED THAT THE BS.1.5BILLION ALLOTTED FOR THE NATIONAL AVIATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AN UPPER LIMIT BUT THAT THE EXECUTIVE WILL MAKE MORE FUNDS AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED. HE GAVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THIS PLAN AND ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR AND MENTIONED THE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE ALREADY PROVIDED AND TO BE PROVIDED BY FAA.

5. TWO FAA SPECIALISTS INVITED TO THE CONVENTION GAVE A PRESENTATION ON FAA METHODS.

6. THE MINISTER STATED THAT HIS MINISTRY IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF LICENSING AIR TAXIS, HERETOFORE PROHIBITED, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES IN REMOTE AREAS. AIRCRAFT DEALERS AFTERWARD STATED THAT THIS SHOULD GIVE RISE TO INCREASED SALES OF TWO-ENGINED AIRCRAFT.

7. THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE IN HIS PRESENTATION PROMISED ALL SUPPORT TO AEROCLUBS AND STATED THAT GENERAL AVIATION IS CONSIDERED BY THE ARMED FORCES AS A RESERVE OF PILOTS AND AIRCRAFT. THE SUCRE AIRBASE NEAR MARACAY, PRESENTLY TRAINING CENTER FOR MILITARY PILOTS, WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS TRAINING ACADEMY UNDER THE UNPD PROGRAM. IT ALREADY HOSTS THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF THE ARMED FORCES. THUS, SUCRE AIRBASE WILL, WITHIN A FEW YEARS, BECOME THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION CENTER OF ALL MILITARY AND CIVIL AVIATION ACTIVITIES.

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8. ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE, SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AND ACCEPTED BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR ALLOWING NIGHT VFR FLIGHTS, FOR STANDARDIZATION OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN RADAR PROCEDURES, FOR TYING THE MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS NET INTO THE AFTN NET FOR THE PASSING OF FLIGHT PLANS AND METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS AND FOR ALLOWING THE CURACAO AEROCLUB MORE AIRPORTS OF ENTRY WITHOUT CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES.

9. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE RECIPROCAL TREATMENT OF FAA PILOT CERTIFICATE NEGOTIATED BY EMBASSY IN SEPTEMBER 1976 (CARACAS 10991) HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT. US-LICENSED PILOTS WILL BE GRANTED EQUIVALENT VENEZUELAN LICENSES WITHOUT TESTS.

10. A PRESENTATION WAS MADE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW "AIRPORT CARACAS", APPROXIMATELY 25 MILES SOUTH OF THE CITY. THE AIRPORT WILL HAVE A 6,500 FOOT ASPHALT RUNWAY WITH A 60,000 LB. RESISTANCE FACTOR TOWER, VOR, APPROACH AND LANDING LIGHTS, HANGARS, FUEL AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. DUE TO LARGE

EARTH MOVING REQUIRED (5MILLION CUBIC METERS), \$15MILLION OF EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN BOUGHT IN THE U.S. ALL ELECTRONIC AND VISUAL AIDS WILL BE PURCHASED IN THE U.S. THE PROMOTERS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. FIXED BASE OPERATORS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINT VENTURES FOR MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS. IF U.S. FIRMS WOULD BE INTERESTED ONLY IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, THE PROMOTERS WOULD FINANCE THE SHOPS THEMSELVES. THE AIRPORT WILL BE OPEN FOR INTERNATIONAL GENERAL AVIATION WITHIN ABOUT TWO YEARS.

11. THE GREAT SHORTAGE OF MECHANICS WAS MENTIONED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE EFFORTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO ALLEVIATE THIS SITUATION. FUNDS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE VIASA FOUNDATION.

12. IN GENERAL, THE MEETING WAS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND SHOWED A GREAT SPIRIT OF HOPE, COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN
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COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS ONES WHICH EXPRESSED CRITIQUE, BITTERNESS AND HOPELESSNESS ABOUT CONDITIONS. THE COOPERATION PROVIDED OVER YEARS FROM FAA AND EMBASSY WAS MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES AND THE DESIRE WAS EXPRESSED FROM OFFICIAL SPEAKERS AND FROM THE FEDERATION OF AEROCLUBS TO INTENSITY THIS COOPERATION.
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